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of trends in public health

Housing and Public Health

Milwaukee's health department is stressing deterioration of housing areas as a public health problem. "Reverse the Trend" is the title of a department pamphlet listing typical housing code violations which totaled 14,147 in 1958. The violations were discovered during 9,686 inspections conducted by the housing division of the health department.

Mental Services for Children

Only 135 hospitals in the United States separate mentally ill children from adult patients, according to a report of the National Organization for Mentally Ill Children, Inc. Existing facilities care for only 3,939 of the estimated 500,000 mentally ill children. Only 46 State mental hospitals have any provision for children, housing 1,700 of the total number needing hospitalization. Of the 3,939 children receiving some kind of services, 46 percent are patients in mental hospitals, 42 percent are in nonhospital residential facilities, and 12 percent are in day centers.

Countywide Health Service

For the first time in New Jersey's public health history, a board of chosen freeholders has created the position of county public health coordinator and appointed a licensed health officer to fill the position.

Cape May County took this action in March 1960, appointing on May 23 Joseph Pack, a graduate of the University of Denver who received a master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina. Pack, who has been associated

with the New Jersey State Department of Health for the past 3 years, will serve as health officer of each municipality in the county which so designates him, and will enforce State statutes and the State and municipal sanitary codes.

Heretofore in New Jersey, licensed health officers have been employed only by municipal boards of health or regional health commissions.

Preventive Drinking

Information designed to prevent rather than treat alcoholism is found in "Social Drinking," by Dr. Giorgio Lolli, World Publishing Company, Cleveland, 1960. Dr. Lolli is the author of a paper on nurses for alcoholics, *Public Health Reports*, August 1956, p. 727.

Yolo County Shines

California's Health, semimonthly report of the California State Department of Public Health, reproduced in its May 1 issue the 1959 annual report of Yolo County, in its entirety, as a picture of current public health problems and activities.

Old Folks in Traffic

"The Senior Citizen in Traffic" and "The Aging Pedestrian" are discussed in *Traffic Safety*, August 1960. A few reprints are available on request to the National Safety Council, 425 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.

Retiree Jobs

Two retirees, aged 65 and 72 years, have been hired by the New Jersey Highway Authority as toll collectors. Their 40-hour a month work schedule allows them to con-

tinue receiving Social Security payments without exceeding the \$1,200 annual earnings limitation. The Authority will offer positions at the Irvington, Montclair, and Hackensack exits to approximately 10 men aged 65 or over. Physical, aptitude, and psychological examinations are required for prospective employees. They will work 3 or 4 hours a day, 3 days a week.

Military Surgeons

More than 2.000 American and international physicians, dentists, veterinarians, nurses, and medical specialist delegates will attend the 67th annual convention of the Association of Military Surgeons October 31 through November 2, 1960, at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington. D.C. The theme of this year's convention is "The Military Role in Medical Progress." Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, president of the American Academy of Sciences, will deliver the keynote address at 9:30 a.m., Monday. October 31. Panels will discuss cholera and radiation.

Periodic Physicals

In advocating periodic physical examinations and urging general practitioners to spend more time on preventive medicine, Dr. Norbert Roberts, assistant professor of occupational medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, stated:

- Some previously unknown disease considered "significant" has been found in one of four adult males by periodic checkups, and a known disease for which the patient is not under medical care has been uncovered in an additional one of five.
- Examinations provide baseline data of inestimable value in subsequent treatment.
- Results of the examinations are helpful in disease research.

Dr. Roberts suggested that busy doctors schedule one periodic physical a day. He pointed out that 6 unsuspected malignancies were discovered among the 600 members of the American Academy of General Practice who had complete physicals during the last annual meeting.